

For Immediate Release:
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**Statement by House Appropriations Chairman Denise Grimsley
on the Progress of the 2012 General Appropriations Act**

Tallahassee, Fla. – State Representative Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, today released the following statement regarding the House proposal for the 2012 General Appropriations Act being reported favorably from each of the seven House Appropriations subcommittees.

“This week, the Florida House took another important step towards an on-time completion of the 2012 General Appropriations Act.

“I am proud to say that the Florida House is doing our part to send a signal of certainty and stability to Florida’s private sector job creators by moving forward to the full Appropriations Committee with a balanced budget that does not raise taxes, maintains adequate reserves and funds more than a \$1 billion increase in K-12 education.

“This week, our House proposals were fully vetted in our seven Appropriations subcommittees where we received valuable input from various constituencies. We carefully considered recommendations of the Governor and state agencies and incorporated them wherever possible. Overall, we applied a consistent and thoughtful approach to ensure the appropriate responsibilities of government were funded.

“I look forward to working with our partners in the Senate soon, whenever they have detailed proposals to share. I have heard concerns expressed over hospital rate reductions in the House budget and look forward to seeing how the Senate will reduce \$850 million in health care without adversely affecting the delivery of hospital services. The only way we can produce what is expected of us is to evaluate, discuss and negotiate such particulars.

“I’m proud of the work we have accomplished in the House thus far and look forward to working with our partners in the Senate as soon as they are willing to come to the table.”

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